

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patty Cox
Kevin Greenfield
Kevin Meachum
Kevin Bird
Phil Hogan
Pat Dawson
John Jackson

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Stuart Jacobs

Laura Lents, County Board Office

MEMBERS ABSENT

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patty Cox at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hogan, motion carried 7-0.

CLAIMS

Mr. Meachum made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 7-0.

Public Comments - None

Old Business - None

New Business:

Macon County Board Resolution Awarding Annual Drainage Project

Mr. Bird explained that the bid opened March 8 and Entler Excavating was the low bidder at \$219,659. This is for various small crossroad culverts, retaining walls, some guard rail work and is a compilation of a lot of different things mostly in the SW part of the county.

Mr. Meachum made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Purchase of Right of Way on the Wyckles Road Whitetopping project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that this is one parcel from Dowson farms. The total amount is \$1,800 which is split between the actual purchase of the right of way and then also for an easement. There are about 8 parcels total and for 7, we just have to get signatures on the agreements. There is just one that we have yet to reach an agreement on. Once that is done, we can get it scheduled to get that project started.

Mr. Kevin Bird made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Hogan and the motion carried 7-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Awarding the Building 2 Tuckpoint and Repair Project

Mr. Bruce Bird explained that building 2 is the original block building with the steel arch and wood roof just north of the main building. It was there before the main building was put in. It has been about 15 years since any tuckpointing / masonry work has been done on that building. There are some pilaster caps on the outside that are in poor shape and leaking water to the inside of the structure. They need to be sealed up. There is also some tuckpointing, more on the north than south. Last time, about 15 years ago, they went through and tuckpointed and sealed everything up and then repainted the building. The paint used is a sealer type of paint that helps keep the water out. Quotes were received from a couple of different places. The lowest total quote, because of asking for tuckpointing and painting to be done simultaneously was from Jones & Sullivan in the amount of \$38,364. Mr. Greenfield asked if there had been any other bids. Mr. Bird said they had gotten one from Bruckner Masonary, but they were just doing the tuck-pointing and did not include the painting.

Mr. Meachum made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Kevin Bird and the motion carried 7-0.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Bruce Bird reported that on the city's motor fuel tax, it will not be a monthly thing, only when fuel is actually purchased which is about every two months.

He went on to say that the fuel delivery systems issues that have been discussed at past meetings where the options are to either repair the existing system or taking it totally out and going to a fuel depot. A 2nd quote that they deal with on the pumps has been received. To upgrade the existing fuel delivery system and get it into place will be about \$16,492 with a credit for some of the items that can be taken out because they can be used for parts. That could bring the grand total down to about \$15,000. The total bid received, because you can't just abandon the tanks in the ground, but you have to take them out, is \$62,000. The other thing looked at is the 11 years of warranty left on the fiberglass tanks that are in the ground. Mr. Bird said he was told that the warranty is for 30 years and you probably won't have any leaks or issues for another 30 past that. There is a lot of value still in the ground and a lot of value in the system. Mr. Bird said his recommendation would be to upgrade the system. It is by far, the cheapest and it would be kind of a waste to just do away with something that still has value. He asked the committee for a consensus on that and said he would have a resolution for the next meeting along with a formal quote from the companies on that. Everyone agreed. Chair Cox clarified that the consensus is to update. Mr. Bruce Bird said yes and the new system would do more than the current one does.

Mr. Bruce Bird went on to say that he was approached by the Village of Niantic. He said that ADM has built a large grain facility out there that collects the grain from the surrounding farmers, but all the outbound grain goes out in trucks, heads up I72 and goes straight to ADM. The road median out of town is kind of Highway 19, but within the Village, it is highway extension so it is actually a Village street. Coming out of town for about 2/3 of the distance, it is a county highway on top of a village street. Then there is a short stretch of old 36 that is the County's and at the interchange itself is the county's. They approached us about trying to come up with a combined project where a truck route through IDOT's Truck Route program could be put in improving everything from the elevator all the way out to the interstate. Mr. Bird said he met with the engineer and the total cost would probably be

about \$850,000 to \$900,000, but it would be split between Macon County, The Village of Niantic, and you could potentially get about \$400,000 from IDOT. We'd be looking at doing the whitetopping which will do a really good job of holding up to the trucks. The job on old 36 is actually IDOT jurisdiction, so we approached IDOT to see if they'd want to come in and participate in it too so we could have a whole new alignment all the way out to the interstate. This is not something that will probably happen next year, but said he would be trying to get a financial package put together in the next month or so. Mr. Meachum asked how long the list was to get the money. Mr. Bird said they take applications each year and there is a certain amount that is set up for each IDOT District. Depending on what is going on, there can be a lot of competition, but sometimes there is none. He said we'd have a real good chance of getting it. It's not a lot of money, but it will help in a situation like this. He said there would be an intergovernmental agreement involved that would spell out all the numbers.

The 3rd negotiating meeting for the wind farms was held yesterday. They've been 5 ½ to 6 hours long, but are pretty close to final decisions and are thinking it should be a go for sometime this fall. Mr. Bird said that it is hopeful that in the next month that portion of it can be wrapped up. The road use agreement involves the county and four townships which are Hickory Point, Illini, Austin & Maroa. There are a lot of roads in that part of the county that are going to have to be totally reconstructed because of the weight of the stuff they'll be bringing in. It will be very beneficial when it's all done, not only for the wind energy, but also for the reconstruction of the roads. That will be long lasting beyond the initial construction. Chair Cox said she hoped they'd take care of us like the pipeline did. Mr. Bird said that it is far and above what the pipelines did. It is very significant, but they also haul in a lot more heavier equipment. He said he was looking forward to getting it wrapped up.

Truck #13, which is 16 years old, threw a cylinder about a month and a half ago. He said they are struggling as to what to do with that because you could get a used motor, but would pay as much for it as the truck is worth. He said they could try to rebuild the existing motor, but it would be one of those things that after you get into it thinking it might be a \$2,000 fix and ends up being a \$6,000 or \$7,000 fix. He said they could offer it up for sale as is, try to rebuild it, or try to find a remanufactured motor. He said they are looking for some guidance as to what to do. Mr. Kevin Bird asked if this was the one with the messed up frame. Mr. Bruce Bird confirmed and said he'd like to get the truck running again, but the age and conditions of the bed and frame make him wonder if he really wants to put anything into it. He asked for the thoughts of the committee members. Mr. Meachum asked what kind of money it would take to replace it. Mr. Bird said he thought maybe one fifty. Mr. Meachum asked if there was money in the equipment line for it. Mr. Bird said it could wait until next year's budget and try to get a set of specs so something could be done ASAP after December 1st. Mr. Meachum wondered if next year's budget would be any better than this year's. Mr. Greenfield said we are hitting the "rainy day" fund pretty hard right now. Things are pretty tight. He said he wouldn't put any money into this truck. Mr. Bird said they are leaning that direction too. The policy is that when they get rid of vehicles, they offer them up to the townships and municipalities first. There are a couple of township guys that have expressed some interest in it. We wouldn't get much of anything if we tried to offer it up to the public. Chair Cox asked what the equipment line is being used for. Mr. Bird said there is money there, but it is for emergency repairs, but it can't be used for the purchase of new equipment. Ms. Cox asked if he were to purchase one this budget year, what line would it come out of. Mr. Bird said it would have to come out of that line, but it just can't be done. He said a replacement could wait until the next budget year and whatever is saved up this year could go into it for next year, but for now he thought they'd put it out for a bid and see if there's any interest. Mr. Meachum asked if he would be putting it into an FY17 budget, purchase in December and hope to get it into the fleet by February. Mr. Bird explained that it's one thing to get the chase, but then you have to get the bed, the spreader, etc... and they have to build all that. Usually, they don't have them just sitting around. Mr. Greenfield asked he had talked to the townships any more about taking over any more of our work. Mr. Bird said he had not lately because of the MFT with the state. That is how we pay for this stuff. Mr. Meachum said he was

wondering if it could be put out for bid in mid-summer, get it started being built, and then pay for it in FY17 since you pay for it when it is received. Mr. Bird said you'd still have to sign off on it, but said he'd talk to some of the suppliers to see what kind of lead time there is on some of the vehicles. Mr. Meachum said that if another one lays down and then in December when there's snow, there could be problems. Mr. Kevin Bird said it's not such a big thing to get the truck, it's the bed and the things that go with it. He said it took 18 weeks on a couple he had bought last year.

Mr. Bird went on to say that they are down one Maintainer right now, another is leaving April 27th and another on July 31st. There are going to be open positions for maintainers. He said he would like to have the ability to advertise and try to fill those positions as they become available. In the past they have advertised, gotten a pool of candidates and then taken it to the committee to look at. He said they would make recommendations, but the final say has already been the committee's. Ms. Cox asked how long they would be on the payroll after leaving. Mr. Bird said one has about 1 ½ months leave time and the other one doesn't have much. He said he could wait until their time is off the payroll. Chairman Greenfield said a letter is going out tomorrow asking all officeholders to refrain from filling positions except for in dire emergency. If it is, they are being asked to go through the finance committee and talk with the Auditor to see where we stand. Mr. Bird said that in all three instances, people are going to be replaced at a lower rate than the ones that are leaving so when it is all done, it will be a cost savings. He said he had no problems bringing it to finance. Mr. Greenfield said the bad thing is that the rainy day fund is being hit pretty hard right now and layoffs are a possibility. He said that before laying people off, he would rather not fill some positions and he'd just like everyone to keep that in mind. Mr. Meachum asked if they could wait until May or June and then see where we are and ask for applications then. Mr. Bird said he could go ahead and ask for applicants and not fill until they are available. Mr. Meachum said he hated to ask for applicants and then . . . Mr. Greenfield said that until we get half way through the budget and sit down with the auditor so see exactly where we are, what the trend is, etc... we are not really going to know, but right now sales tax is down and we are struggling. Mr. Meachum said this is earmarked money that can't be used for anything else. Mr. Greenfield said that Mr. Bird is right and it is already in the budget, but the thing is if we have to start laying people off, he would rather just eliminate some positions. If someone voluntarily retires, we don't have to go lay someone off. Mr. Bird said he would provide some numbers on where he is in the current budget when it comes up. He asked if he could at least advertise and get a pool with the idea of not acting on it until it becomes necessary. Mr. Greenfield asked how it is advertised. Mr. Bird said it is put in the paper and online. Ms. Cox asked if he had ever tried going through Workforce Investments. Mr. Bird said the issue is that they need someone with a CDL and a lot of the people she has do not have that. Mr. Greenfield said he goes through Richland. Mr. Bird said he would contact them and is open to all sorts of opportunities.

The project at CH30 & CH41 at Wyckles and west of Elwin is getting ready to start. There is a pre-construction conference next week and the contractor is wanting to get started on that relatively soon. The State's contractor is probably going to get started about 2 to 3 weeks after ours does.

The joint project with the City, Townships, and Villages on the micro-surfacing project is already packaged and ready to go. If the windfarm people get to working on the roads, there is going to be a lot of roadwork in the community this year.

The oil letting is next Thursday. They've been coming in cheaper than what we've paid in the past in some of the counties that have already had their letting.

The guys have been crack-sealing and are still doing some tree trimming and brush removal. A lot of progress is being made.

Miscellaneous Business: none

Closed Session: None needed

Adjourn:

Mr. Kevin Bird made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the motion carried 7-0 & meeting was adjourned @ 6 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Laura Lents / Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office